



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
In Cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture
West Virginia Field Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd E
Charleston, West Virginia 25305



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Contact: Charmaine Wilson
(304) 357-5126

2014 WEST VIRGINIA HONEY PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia – Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186,000 pounds, down 90,000 pounds, or 33 percent, from the 2013 total of 276,000 pounds. There were 6,000 producing colonies in 2014, unchanged from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 31 pounds, down 15 pounds from 46 pounds in 2013. Honey stocks on December 15, 2014, were reported at 33,000 pounds, down 50,000 pounds, or 60 percent, from 83,000 pounds reported in 2013.

Prices for the 2014 crop averaged 404 cents per pound, up 10 percent from the price of 366 cents per pound in 2013. Value of production totaled 751,000 dollars, down 259,000 dollars, or 26 percent, from 1,010,000 dollars in 2013.

United States – Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices.